

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Training Area

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DATE PREPARED 13 July 1951

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PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) one sketch on ditto

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1. On 22 May 1951, [redacted] by blasting, 64 tank shell duds at the drill field near Kannenburg in the Templin (N 54/U 81) training area. Each of the 65 houses along the village road in Kannenburg quartered about 20 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 30 tents, each capable of sheltering 24 men, were at the northern perimeter of Kannenburg. Four JS tanks were parked beside the tents.

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2. [redacted], until 9 June, Camp Vogelsang quartered the following units:

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- a. A tank unit from Prenzlau (N 54/Q 14) [redacted] While the commanding officer, a colonel, was on leave, one Major Shanin (spelling uncertain) was acting commander of the unit, which included 150 officers. Every morning at 8 a.m., the majority of the unit assembled for roll call and subsequently marched in review past the commanding officer. Usually, the troops were organized into 10 blocks of about 50 men each, with a band and the officers standing at the right wing.

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b. An unidentified tank unit commanded by Colonel Shuk (spelling uncertain) (fnu), [redacted]

c. A unit from Oranienburg (N 53/Z 67) [redacted] commanded by one Colonel Semenov or Semanov (?).

[redacted] The officers' mess catered to 120 to 140 officers in 1950, and to 180 to 200 officers during the present training period.

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d. Another tank unit from Prenzlau [redacted] was commanded by one Colonel Kuzain [redacted]

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3. Camp Vogelsang is composed of four sections. Each section contains a number of low wooden barracks buildings, including: 1 headquarters building; 4 or 5 officers' billets; officers' and EM kitchens and mess rooms; 1 officers' club; and numerous classroom buildings and lavatories. The EM quarters were quite a distance from

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the tank and motor vehicle parking lots. Adjoining each camp section was a drill field. New wooden barracks buildings were under construction on either side of the road approaching the camp from the south. An ammunition dump, about 100 meters square and surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, was established in the dense woods, with the ammunition boxes piled up in the open. No fuel dump seemed to be available; however, about 30 tank trucks drove to the camp on 3 June. Numerous tanks were seen along the edge of the woods southeast of the camp. Tracks of numerous motor vehicles and tanks led to these woods. Frequent tank practice, mostly at night, was conducted recently in the area near Storkow, east of the Zehdenick-Berlin road. Activities of the troops included: daily drill at the drill field, including basic training of recruits; and frequent marches while wearing gas masks. At the time of observation, numerous officers and EM had gone or were going on leave, a practice which was also observed during the summer of 1950. They will all return for the large-scale maneuvers at the end of the summer. \*

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5. The following troops and supplies were unloaded in the Templin training area between 6 and 10 June:
- 6 June. About 450 recruits with red-bordered black epaulets from 11 boxcars, at the Vogelsang railroad station. The troops marched to Camp Vogelsang. About 650 recruits with red-bordered black epaulets from 16 boxcars, at the Hammelspring railroad station. The troops marched to Camp Hammelspring.
- 9 June. A carload of bacon from Oranienburg, at the Vogelsang railroad station. The bacon was hauled to Camp Vogelsang.
- 10 June. About 1,300 troops with red-bordered black epaulets from 32 boxcars, at the Vogelsang railroad station. All of them were trained soldiers, including many privates first class, junior sergeants and sergeants, wearing war decorations. The troops were unarmed and wore artillery, tank, motor transport, and musicians' insignia. They marched to Camp Vogelsang in small groups. \*\*\*

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6.

[REDACTED]

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\* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED]

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four  
 camps situated side by side which probably quartered tank units of the  
 25th Tank Div. [REDACTED] the  
 units mentioned in the present report correspond to those of the tank  
 regiments of the 25th Tank Div. [REDACTED]

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Major Shanin, acting  
 commander of the regiment, may be Captain Shanin (fnu), who, in World War II,  
 belonged to the 26th Gds Tank Brig which was merged with the 25th Gds Tank  
 Brig of the II Gds Tank Corps in January 1944. He may also be one Shanin  
 (fnu), who according to a press dispatch of September 1948, was commanding  
 a tank unit in the Soviet Zone of Germany. Colonel Shuk possibly is  
 Lieutenant Colonel Shuk (fnu), who was the wartime chief of staff of the  
 45th Gds Tank Brig in December 1943. Since Colonel Shuk's unit is the only  
 tank regiment [REDACTED] it  
 is probably the 162d Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div from Oranienburg. On  
 the basis of the present report, Colonel Semenov, or Semyanov, (fnu), is  
 carried as the commanding officer of the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank  
 Div from Oranienburg. Colonel Kuzmin (fnu) has been repeatedly reported  
 to be in command of a tank unit in Prenzlau. With the  
 present report mentioning him again, Colonel Kuzmin is carried as the  
 commanding officer of the 23d Gds Tank SP Regt of the 25th Tank Div from  
 Prenzlau. The troops [REDACTED] to have gone on leave were probably  
 discharges going to the U.S.S.R.

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] a unit in Wiederitzsch, north of Leipzig,  
 dispatched a shipment of motor vehicle spare parts in May 1951. [REDACTED]  
 the 175th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div in Prenzlau, which  
 is confirmed by the present report until 9 June 1951. Chepel  
 the Lieutenant Colonel (Tank Troops) Chepel (fnu), who was mentioned in a  
 radio broadcast in July 1944.

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\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

The group of about 1,300 seen on 10 June were probably soldiers  
 ready for demobilization.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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